

*Following is a summary of important business news published in the leading daily newspapers of Bangladesh. For the complete news, please follow the online link given below each news. Please note that the news summary doesn't reflect the opinion of BRAC EPL Stock Brokerage Limited.*

**Macro:****Raise tax collection, cut budget size**

- The visiting mission of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) is prioritising four conditions for releasing two instalments of an ongoing USD 4.7 Bn loan programme, according to Finance Adviser Salehuddin Ahmed. The conditions comprise raising overall tax collection, reducing the national budget for the next fiscal year of 2025-26, shifting to a more market-based exchange rate regime, and reducing budget deficits.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/raise-tax-collection-cut-budget-size-3865136>

**USTR flags persistent trade barriers in Bangladesh**

- High tariffs, investment hurdles and entrenched corruption continue to undermine American businesses operating in Bangladesh, according to the latest report by the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR). The 2025 report on foreign trade barriers, released last month, also raised concerns about Bangladesh's data localisation efforts and restrictive digital laws, warning that such policies could stifle cross-border digital trade.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/ustr-flags-persistent-trade-barriers-bangladesh-3865126>

**Govt to seek 3-month pause on 37% US tariff**

- Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus will write to President Donald Trump today, requesting a three-month suspension of the 37% US reciprocal tariffs as part of measures to shield Bangladesh's exports to its largest single-country market. Meanwhile, the commerce ministry will send a letter to the US Trade Representative (USTR) for the same purposes.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/govt-seek-3-month-pause-37-us-tariff-1109506>

**Investment Summit to spotlight 5 high-growth sectors, including digital economy, apparel**

- The Bangladesh Investment Summit 2025 begins today, offering a prime platform to highlight the country's potential investment opportunities across five key sectors – renewable energy, digital economy, textile and apparel, healthcare and pharma, and agro-processing. Set against the backdrop of Bangladesh's evolving economic landscape, the summit aims to emphasise the country's readiness for transformative growth, positioning it as a dynamic hub for foreign investment.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/investment-summit-spotlight-5-high-growth-sectors-including-digital-economy-apparel-1109501>

**What's drawing investors to Bangladesh?**

- After nearly a year marred by macroeconomic turbulence and political uncertainty, the interim government has rolled up its sleeves and begun addressing the economy's deep-rooted ailments with an urgency rarely seen in recent times. An often-overlooked fact is the size of its middle and affluent class – now estimated at over 35 Mn people. That is more than three times the population of Portugal and about half that of Germany. This domestic consumer base alone is reason enough for foreign companies to take note.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/whats-drawing-investors-bangladesh-1109496>

**External balance continues to improve, deficit falls 75% in Jul-Feb**

- The overall deficit in the country's Balance of Payments – known as the external balance – decreased by 75% in the first eight months of the fiscal 2024-25 compared to the same period last year due to a decline in hundi transactions leading to strong growth in remittance inflow, and export growth outpacing import growth. According to Bangladesh Bank data, the overall Balance of Payments deficit stood at USD 1.11 Bn during the July-February period of FY25, down from USD 4.44 Bn at the same period a year ago.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/external-balance-continues-improve-deficit-falls-75-jul-feb-1109456>

**Policy rate to be lowered if inflation falls below 8%, Bangladesh Bank tells IMF**

- The Bangladesh Bank has informed the International Monetary Fund (IMF) that the central bank will consider lowering the policy rate once inflation drops below 8%. "In response to the IMF's query, the governor noted that inflation is expected to come down to 8.2% by June, according to projections from both the Bangladesh Bank and the IMF," he added.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/policy-rate-be-lowered-if-inflation-falls-below-8-bangladesh-bank-tells-imf-1109286>

**Investment Summit: US tariff to have no negative impact, boost investment climate, says Bida chief Ashik**

- The US administration's tariff issue, which comes ahead of the Bangladesh Investment Summit, will have no negative impact but rather, the additional push would help Bangladesh create a better investment environment, Executive Chairman of the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA) Chowdhury Ashik Mahmud Bin Harun said today (6 April).

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/no-negative-impact-bida-chief-ashik-us-tariff-1109201>

**IMF notes some progresses on BD economic front**

- Some positive notes in the latest IMF review of Bangladesh's economic situation raise hope in government high-ups for release of a stalled loan tranche together with the next one by June. We are optimistic," Finance Adviser Dr Salehuddin Ahmed told reporters when asked whether he remains hopeful about receiving the fourth installment of the USD 4.7 Bn credit after he had a meeting with the visiting IMF team members Sunday at the secretariat.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/imf-notes-some-progresses-on-bd-economic-front-1743960476>

**Sector & Industries:****TELECOM | Starlink gets nod to launch in Bangladesh**

- Starlink, a US-based satellite internet provider owned by billionaire Elon Musk, has received formal approval from the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (Bida) to begin operations in Bangladesh — a move hailed as a step forward in bridging the digital divide.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/starlink-gets-nod-launch-bangladesh-3865121>

**AGRICULTURE | Rubber producers hit by price slump, security strains**

- Bangladesh's natural rubber industry, once a bright spot in the economy, is losing its lustre as slumping demand and volatile law and order in the greater Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) send prices tumbling. Over the past six months, domestic rubber prices have dropped sharply – from BDT 280 per kilogramme to below BDT 220 – leaving growers and investors grappling with mounting losses.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/rubber-producers-hit-price-slump-security-strains-3865106>

**TRADE | RMG makers to seek buyers' support in emerging situation**

- Apparel makers are now considering writing US buyers seeking their patience and support in the wake of the emerging situation over new US tariff regime, insiders said. Meantime, US buyers of the locally made apparel items have started renegotiation with some of their local suppliers with few asking to hold their shipments either in ports or factories while some others seeking price concession, they added.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/rmg-makers-to-seek-buyers-support-in-emerging-situation-1743959133>

**TELECOM | BTRC moves afresh to introduce NEIR**

- Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) is once again moving forward with the implementation of the National Equipment Identity Register (NEIR), aiming to curb illegal handset usage through a triplet-based registration system. While mobile operators have welcomed the broader objective of blocking unauthorised devices, they are raising concerns over the intricacy of deregistration requirements, which they say may cause unnecessary hardship, particularly for women and rural users whose SIM cards are often registered under family heads.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/btrc-moves-afresh-to-introduce-neir-1743959575>

**Stocks:****SAIFPOWER, UCB | Saif Powertec in talks with UCB to resolve BDT 5.18 Bn loan issue**

- Saif Powertec said yesterday that it is in discussions with United Commercial Bank (UCB) to resolve a loan-related issue, following a recent notice by the bank regarding the planned auction of Saif's assets. "We are going to settle the matter with UCB, Mohakhali Branch, Dhaka, for which our management is in discussions with the bank authorities to resolve it as early as possible," the company said in a disclosure to the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE).

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/saif-powertec-talks-ucb-resolve-tk-518cr-loan-issue-3865101>

**EXCHANGE | BSEC fines BDT 23.6 Mn to Shakib, associates for share manipulation**

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has imposed fines totalling approximately BDT 23.6 Mn on eight individual investors, including cricketer Shakib Al Hasan and Md Abul Khayer Hiru, as well as four institutions, for manipulating the share price of Crystal Insurance Company Ltd. In addition, the regulatory body has issued warnings to Al-Amin Chemical Industries Ltd, Sonali Paper Board Mills Ltd, and NRBC Bank for their involvement in the manipulation of Crystal Insurance shares. This decision was finalised by the commission last month.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/bsec-fines-tk236cr-shakib-associates-share-manipulation-1109416>

**EXCHANGE | Dhaka bourse to inspect 10 more worrisome companies**

- The Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) has received permission from the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) to conduct on-site inspections of 10 listed companies. The companies' headquarters, factory premises, and other relevant operational areas will be visited to assess their actual business and financial conditions. The companies that will come under scrutiny this time are Associated Oxygen Limited, FAR Chemical Industries Limited, Krishibid Seed Limited, Nahee Aluminum Composite Panel, Ring Shine Textiles Limited, Khan Brothers PP Woven Bag Industries Limited, Beach Hatchery Limited, Global Heavy Chemicals Limited, Indo-Bangla Pharmaceuticals Limited and Fu-Wang Ceramic Industries Limited.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/dhaka-bourse-to-inspect-10-more-worrisome-companies-1743953504>

**Stock and Commodities\***

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 60.33	(USD 11.10)	-15.54%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 63.80	(USD 10.59)	-14.24%
Gold Spot*	USD 3,035.48	USD 427.00	16.37%
DSEX	5,205.19	-11.25	-0.22%
S&P 500	5,074.08	-832.86	-14.10%
FTSE 100	8,054.98	-66.03	-0.81%
BSE SENSEX	75,364.69	-2,835.24	-3.63%
KSE-100	118,791.66	3,532.66	3.06%
CSEALL	15,373.35	-571.26	-3.58%

**Exchange Rates****1 US Dollar = 121.94 BDT****1 GBP = 156.77 BDT****1 Euro = 133.26 BDT****1 INR = 1.42 BDT**

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